

# Press Release

From the Office of  
**Supervisor Neil Derry**  
County of San Bernardino, Third District  
[www.sbcounty.gov/derry](http://www.sbcounty.gov/derry)

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## County Ushers in New Era of Code Enforcement with Administrative Citations

### *First citations in Third District issued*

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – San Bernardino County code enforcement officers issued their first administrative citation in the Third District in January.

The first citation was issued on Jan. 19 to a Big Bear City property owner using a single family residence as a rental property without the required short-term rental permit. On Jan. 26, a property owner in Landers was cited for inadequate water and sanitation at a rental property.

One of the most difficult aspects of enforcing county codes in the past was an inability to provide enough pressure on violators to compel them to abate the nuisance in a timely fashion. The process would involve numerous warnings and court time before the offenders would comply or county workers would be allowed to abate the nuisance.

Additionally, collecting fines and fees was a very lengthy process. If a particularly obstinate violator wanted to delay, they could refuse to pay until several years after a lien was placed on the property. Consequently, if the violator had no intention of moving or refinancing the property, there was very little the county could do to collect this revenue to offset the costs of enforcement.

Administrative citations allow code enforcement officers to avoid lengthy and costly court trials by empowering officers to write tickets for violations after they have received a Notice of Violation. Fines begin at \$100 for the first offense and escalate further with each additional citation.

The most powerful aspect of the administrative citations is that violators can have their wages garnished, bank accounts seized and income tax refunds intercepted in order to recoup these penalties.

**“Our goal is to compel compliance, not to place an onerous financial burden on violators and turn them into revenue streams,”** said Supervisor Neil Derry. **“But, we needed to put some real teeth into enforcement so that we can address these problem properties.”**